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FM AMEMBASSY RIYADH

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8913

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DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO NEA/ELA E MILLER AND SNEWHOUSE,  
NEA/RA MADLER AND NEA/ARP WROEBUCK

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/03/2018

TAGS: FUN PGOV PREL SA SY

SUBJECT: FRENCH DCM ON RELATIONS WITH SYRIA

REF: A. SECSTATE 78880

1B. RIYADH 1155

Classified By: Charge' d'Affaires Michael Gfoeller  
for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

11. (S/NF) SUMMARY. The French DCM in Riyadh commented to us  
that GOF will be wary in its engagement with Syria. END  
SUMMARY.

12. (S/NF) In a meeting between Pol Counselor and French DCM  
in Riyadh Emmanuel Bonne on August 2 to discuss Kosovo  
(Septel), Bonne raised the issues of Syria and Lebanon.  
Bonne volunteered, without any particular reference, that the  
Government of France, as well as fellow EU member states,  
would be cautious in their dealings with Syria. He added  
that France "had historical experience" with the Syrians and  
recognized they can be duplicitous.

13. (S/NF) COMMENT. It appears our demarche to the SAG  
(Reftels) regarding European caution with Syria was acted  
upon by our Saudi interlocutors and passed on to their  
European counterparts. END COMMENT.  
GFOELLER